

Clark, Kristen

From: Dale Strassheim [dstrassheim@thebabyfold.org]
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2011 8:55 AM
To: Clark, Kristen
Subject: Testimony for the Budgeting for Results hearing

Importance: High

Kristen,

I am writing to share some thoughts for the hearing in Springfield later today. Thank you for accepting this in advance of the hearing.

I am the President and CEO of The Baby Fold, a 109 year old human service agency in Normal, Illinois. We have a range of services from residential care to foster care to adoption and special needs education. We employ close to 300 employees at 3 locations in Normal

We are an agency that is committed to quality and safe services for the many clients we serve. We fully believe in improving our quality and outcomes for those we serve, and therefore embrace Quality Improvement processes and procedures, believing we can always improve on what we do. We are also a firm believer in accreditation and invite five different accreditation agencies to come and evaluate us on a regular basis, again with a goal of identifying opportunities for improvement.

Therefore, as the State of Illinois moves forward with this Budgeting for Results Commission work, we want to extend our support and encouragement to the work of the Commission. We believe in measuring for results because we believe in "best practice" as a driving force for our non profit agency. We have a long and steady history of measuring for results and learning from our experiences. This may be a new way of budgeting for Illinois, but we are accustomed to budget in this fashion and therefore support and encourage an open and fair process that includes dialogue and exchange of ideas and solutions so that everyone involved is treated fairly and appropriately. We sincerely offer our support and help to anyone in the State that will be working to make this process effective and workable. It is our hope that you can encourage our "partners" throughout the state to include us private providers in the discussions and ultimate decisions made in order to have a workable and acceptable and positive outcome on this project. We truly see ourselves as partners with the State of Illinois, as we both need and depend on each other to perform our respective services to the best of our abilities in order to serve the most disadvantaged and most vulnerable citizens of our state.

Thank you for including my written testimony at the briefing today.

Dale S. Strassheim
President and CEO
The Baby Fold
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"We never give up on a child"

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